



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
21, July, 2010**

The Urban Forestry Board convened in a regular meeting on 21, July, 2010, 200 S. Lamar Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Board Member Maceo called the Board Meeting to order at 6:42 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Peggy Maceo, Jessica Wilson, Ryan Fleming, Nick Classen, Nevic Donnelly

Staff in Attendance: PARD: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager; Margaret Russell, Cultural Arts & Education Program Manager; Alice Nance, Conservation Program Coordinator; Rene Barrera, Environmental Conservation Information Specialist; Anthony Cardenas, Administrative Assistant, Austin Energy; Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, PDRD: Michael Embesi, City Arborist

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Fleming motioned to pass meeting minutes from June 16th, seconded by Board Member Wilson. Motion passed 4-0-1.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. Zoila Vega to present in conjunction with Zilker Tree Rescue Project item

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. The presentation was made by Alice Nance, Conservation Program Coordinator regarding the invasive species project and the work being done with City Legal.
- b. The presentation was made by Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, AE regarding Austin Energy's numbers for June. Miles completed and trees distributed are down.
- c. The presentation was made by Michael Embesi, City Arborist, PDRD regarding numbers for June. Record was set for 158 trees to be removed.

6. OLD BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Briefing on Urban Forestry Management Plan
 - 1) Walter Passmore stated that header has been posted on the website in regards to an executive summary of what is wanted to be accomplished. They are also planning on applying for accreditation through the Society of Municipal Arborists; hopefully making Austin the largest city to be accredited.
- b. Strategic Work Plan – no discussion
- c. Professional licensing of tree care professionals
 - 1) Board Member Classen inquired as to whether there had been any developments. Board Member Donnelly stated he will put together a list of other municipalities that require certification and with discuss the matter further with Board Member Classen.
- d. Education sign about why we leave snags – no discussion

- e. Discussion of possible acquisition of city maintenance funds for Gateway Oaks – no discussion
- f. Discussion of Heritage Tree Ordinance
 - 1) Michael Embesi stated that the meeting taking place would focus mainly on enforcement efforts.
- g. Discussion of the state of the Urban Forest Summit – no discussion

7. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Organizing a workday schedule for Urban Forest Steward graduates – Board Member Halley – no discussion
- b. Discussion of ideal trees for specific areas that are cost effective – Board Member Classen
 - 1) Walter Passmore stated that staff is working on creating manuals giving examples of trees that would have a greater chance of living in certain conditions. However, one needs flexibility to determine an ideal tree on a site by site basis.
- c. Heritage trees species list update – Board Member Fleming
 - 1) Board Member Fleming stated that individual work has been done and she will attempt to hold a meeting next week.
- d. Presentation by Mary Collins Blackmon, PARD, & Robin Camp, Public Works, to report on trees at Elisabet Ney Museum grounds – Board Member Halley – to be presented in August
- e. Presentation by Walter Passmore, PARD, of Zilker tree rescue project grant application.
 - 1) Walter Passmore stated 89 trees were identified on the Polo Fields at Zilker that have root system with small trees. The rescue project will benefit most trees in that area.
 - 2) Passmore also stated that there will be aeration, addition of compost, adding of mulch, and supplemental watering.
 - 3) The funds requested were \$50,000, however the matching contribution is \$84,000.
 - 4) Board Member Wilson proposed to support proposal with customized watering plan to be developed by city staff as well as a raised physical barrier with a minimum of one year, seconded by Board Member Fleming. Motion passed 5-0-0.
- f. Grand funds for Margret Hofmann Oaks plaque – Michael Embesi, PDRD
 - 1) Michael Embesi gave a brief history of the process of naming the grove of trees after Margret Hofmann. He also stated that the City of Austin is planning on placing a plaque in the grove and he hopes the Urban Forestry Board will support the effort to purchase and place the plaque.
- g. Urban Forest Grant Program application request by Rene Barrera, PARD
 - 1) Rene Barrera stated that preserves in communities are heavily inundated with invasives. There are efforts to eradicate, but manpower is low and stipulations high.
 - 2) Barrera is requesting a chipper to assist with eradication. The grant is for \$15,000 with a match funding of \$5,000.
 - 3) Board Member Donnelly motioned to approve the request, seconded by Board Member Fleming. Motioned passed 5-0-0.
- d. Request for new agenda items
 - 1) Tree Overlay subcommittee – Board Member Maceo

8. ADJOURN: Board Member Maceo adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m. without objection